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**IRAQ**

برنامج العدالة في متناول الجميع  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM**

# IRAQ ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM

## WEEKLY REPORT #68

February 25 – March 2, 2012

**March, 2012**

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



## **COMPONENT 1 - IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF LEGAL REMEDIES**

### **Result 1.2: Improved Knowledge of Target Groups about Services/Entitlements Offered by the Government and Civil Society**



The NGO Directorate organized a meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> between A2J, NGOs providing assistance to widows, the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), and the Ministry of Immigration and Displaced Persons. One of the participating NGOs, Umm-Alyateem, presented findings from a survey on the condition of widows in the Al-Hurriya District of Baghdad. The survey revealed that widows' living conditions are adversely affected by a lack of awareness of their rights and services offered by the government. The participants agreed to increase cooperation between the government, NGOs, and A2J in initiating nationwide awareness and advocacy campaigns to support widows in accessing their rights and benefits guaranteed under Iraqi law and the Constitution. A2J is expecting to receive at least 5 grant proposals to raise widows' awareness of their rights through media campaigns, conferences, and trainings as a direct result of the meeting.

The Kurdish Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (KMOLSA), Social Research Center, and A2J, will prepare a dictionary in sign language on legal issues affecting the deaf. A2J also met with KMOLSA about developing awareness raising brochures for vulnerable groups which includes disabilities issues and domestic violence.

The Basrah Regional Office (BRO), along with other USAID implementers and international organizations, attended a March 1<sup>st</sup> roundtable hosted by the Basrah U.S. Consulate General covering issues faced by women in Iraq. The BRO presented on the A2J Program and laws and legal issues affecting women who seek help in legal clinics.

### **Result 1.3: Practical knowledge of vulnerable populations of how to access and use tools improved through traditional and social media**

A2J completed a three day "Strategic Communication Planning" training program in Baghdad on February 27-29 for new grantees. The training was designed to build the capacity of newly approved grantees in designing, planning, implementing, and monitoring awareness raising campaigns targeting vulnerable groups. Ten participants from IADO, Women for Justice, and Baghdad Law School attended. Topics included identifying campaign goals, the target audience, messages, communication tools, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of campaigns. The next training for new grantees will be held in March in the Kurdish Region.



The last in the series of four specialized trainings on Advanced Communication Skills was completed by grantee Al Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development in Basrah. The training was held February 26-March 1 and was attended by 14 participants (5 female) including media specialists from the Basrah Provincial Council and 8 new grantees. The topics covered in the interactive training included planning, implementation, and management of public awareness campaigns using various media tools and techniques. Participants were encouraged to talk about issues and challenges they have faced in previous campaigns in order to collectively determine feasible solutions.



#### **Result 1.4: Effective Monitoring and Evaluation of Implementing Partner Public Awareness Campaigns**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Component 1 completed a site visit to Fatema House's legal awareness raising workshop on details of the personal status law for widows and divorced women. Twenty-eight women attended the workshop which was conducted by a lawyer. The women's questions primarily related to lack of identity and marriage registration certificates. Fourteen of the participants later returned to the legal clinic seeking assistance for their specific cases.



## Weekly Update of Awareness Campaigns

#	Grantee	Quantity of Print	Distributed	Radio / TV / Web	Awareness Trainings
1	Iraqi Al-Mortaqa Foundation for Human Development	8 Banners	8 Banners	N/A	4
2	Fatema House Charity Women	5 Banners	5 Banners	0	45 (3)
		1000 Brochure (100)	1083 Brochures (73)		
		2000 Plastic Bags with Advertising (Contribution)	2000 Plastic Bags with Ads (Contribution)		
3	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	5250 Brochures	5250 Brochures (125)	60 Radio Adv.	40 (3)
		2650 Posters	2650 Posters (60)	60 TV Adv.	
4	Al-Malak Human Organization	2000 Posters	2000 Posters	14 Live Radio Programs (4)	16
		3000 Booklets	2800 Booklets (50)		
		3 Banners	3 Banners		
		6000 Adv. in Magazine	4000 Adv. in Magazine (300)		
5	College of Law and Politics, University of Salahaddin	0	0	0	1
6	Women Empowerment Organization	2 Banner	2 Banner	10 Live Radio Programs	43 (3)
		Brochure 1000	Brochure 214 (150)	TV Ad. 1	
7	Salam Al-Rafidain Organization	26 Banners	26 Banners	N/A	20 (1)
		1500 Business Cards	1370 Business Cards (70)		
8	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	300 Handbooks	300 Handbooks (5)	TV: 1 Web. 1	6 (1)
		10 Banners	10 Banners		
		3000 Brochures	2650 Brochures (200)		
9	Al-Shabk Women Association	5000 Posters	5000Posters	8 Radio Advertisements (2) Web. 1	8
		4000 Brochures	4000 Brochures		
		Announcement in the Al-Yaqeen newspaper about the project			
10	Kurdish Human Rights Watch	4000 Booklets	4000 Booklets (500)	Web: 2 Adv. Radio: 6	6 (1)
		6 Banners	6 Banners		
11	Soran Association for the Care of the Handicapped (SACH)	1000 Posters	800 Posters	1 Radio Adv.	3
				6 Live Radio Programs	
12	Iraq Al Amal Association	2000 Brochures	1800 Brochures (50)	11 Live Radio Programs (1)	5 (2)
		14 Banners	14 Banners		

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not been verified by M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Verified data will be presented in quarterly reports.

## COMPONENT 2 - IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES

### Result 2.1: Support Iraqi NGOs Working in Priority Access to Justice Areas to Improve their Administrative and Substantive Capacity to Support Vulnerable Populations

A2J completed site visits to KHRW, Soran, and WEO legal clinics in the Kurdish Region (IKR). The technical team provided feedback on the grantees' current performance, the possibility of modifications to grant agreements, and to offer technical assistance and mentoring on ways forward as possible grant extensions and renewals of current legal clinic activities are being considered. Details of WEO and Soran legal clinic activities will be provided in next week's report.





A2J completed a site visit to Salam Al-Rafidan legal clinic in Baghdad on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. The legal clinic assists women with inheritance, child custody, paternity issues, marriage, and divorce certifications. Verifiable records reveal that the clinic received 204 cases to date, 28 of which required legal representation in court. Ten of the court cases have been completed.

A2J conducted site visits in Ninewa Province to legal clinics run by Al-Malak in Mosul and Al-Shabak in Bartalla. Record keeping procedures were discussed with Al-Shabek. Al-Malak is utilizing a record keeping database that will be adapted and used as a template by other legal clinics. Al-Malak also has a mobile legal clinic in Tal Afar in the western part of the province.

### Weekly Update of Legal Assistance to Vulnerable Groups Provided by Access to Justice Partners (Cumulative and New)

#	Grantee	Location	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Hotline Calls	# of Legal Consultations	# of Legal Cases
1	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Najaf Center	Najaf	Women	71(13)	229(12)	132(11)
2	Iraqi Al Amal Association - Kirkuk Center	Kirkuk	Women	117(16)	116(13)	81(4)
3	Fatema House Charity for Women	Baghdad – Sadr City	Women	0		363(32)
4	Al-Rahma Humanity Association	Baghdad - Shaab	Women	103(6)	332(17)	114(3)
5	Women Empowerment Organization	Erbil - Einkawa	Women	69 (4)	74(3)	48(0)
6	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid	Baghdad - Karrada	IDPs	129(0)	136(0)	114(16)
7	Kurdistan Human Rights Watch	Erbil – Einkawa / Khabat	IDPs	199(23)	254(26)	32(1)
8	Soran Association for Care of the Handicapped	Erbil – Soran	Persons with Disabilities	215(4)	97(2)	19 (0)
9	Salam Al-Rafidain	Baghdad – Yousifiya	Women	99(5)	69(10)	28(4)
10	Al-Malak Human	Ninawa – Mosul	Women	169(12)	125(5)	54(4)
11	Al-Shabak Women's Organization	Ninawa - Bartallah	Women	281(0)	113(10)	17(3)

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### *Success Story*

Hanadi, a young girl, had nothing official to prove her identity because the midwife who had delivered her had died, and the paperwork had been lost by her parents. Hanadi's mother was poor, illiterate, and ill, and sought assistance from the Al Rahma legal clinic. Al-Rahma Association obtained a power of attorney so Hanadi's ill mother could stay home and rest while the Al Rahma lawyer followed up the case. Although Hanadi's mother and father were hesitant to sign over a power of attorney given their illiteracy and mistrust of the formal legal system that historically has failed to serve the poor and marginalized, the Al-Rahma lawyer explained the benefits and gained their trust. Al Rahma obtained the necessary paperwork verifying Hanadi's birth which allowed her father to go to the personal status office in Sadr City the next day, and successfully receive an identity card for his daughter.

## **Result 2.2: Work with Iraqi Legal Professional Associations (Primarily the IBA and Jurist Union and their Subsidiaries) to Increase Administrative and Substantive Capacity for Empowering Lawyers and Other Legal Professionals to Assist Vulnerable or Disadvantaged Populations**

A2J sponsored a roundtable between the IBA and KBA on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Erbil to strengthen ties between the two organizations and address mutual legal and administrative concerns. Outcomes will be discussed in the next report.

## **Result 2.3: Assist the IBA and Other Legal Associations to “Increase the Supply of Lawyers” Assisting Vulnerable or Disadvantaged Populations through Initiatives such as CLE for Lawyers, Pre-service Orientation Training for New Lawyers, and Targeted Training on Assisting Vulnerable Groups**

Component 2 met with the KBA and the U.S. Consulate General Rule of Law office in Erbil to discuss ways of advancing the new partnership between the KBA and the Florida Bar Association. Plans are now under way to bring members of the Florida Bar Association to Iraq.

### **Weekly Update of Training to Lawyers Provided by Access to Justice Partners (Cumulative and New)**

#	Grantee	Focus of Lawyer Training	# of Training Sessions	# of Trainees
1	Kurdistan Bar Association	Legal Service Provision to Vulnerable Populations	5	125
2	Iraqi Bar Association	Human Rights Awareness	9	590

Note: Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week. Numbers in the above table have not been verified by M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Verified data will be presented in quarterly reports.

## **Result 2.4: Support Development of Programs and Modernization of Academic and Practical Curriculum Related to Extending Access to Justice to Vulnerable Populations at Law Schools in Iraqi Universities in Key Locations throughout Iraq**

A2J completed a site visit to Salahaddin Law School Legal Clinic in Erbil in order to find solutions to challenges impeding the grantee's successful implementation of grant activities. The agreed upon solution will involve amending the grant agreement to lessen the statement of work so that it is more manageable for the grantee. The need to incorporate more students into clinical activities, consistent with the grant agreement, was also discussed along with ways to effectively utilize the 7 KBA volunteer lawyers.

A2J visited Baghdad Law School and met the Deans' Council Secretary on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Preparations for the Curriculum Development Conference, scheduled for May, were discussed. In addition, an analysis of the current curriculum used by the law school was made in order to prepare a presentation for the conference.

A2J and the Department of Justice participated in a two-day practice round for the two top teams from the Iraq National Rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The practice rounds were designed to prepare the teams from Baghdad and Dhi Qar Law Schools for the international rounds in March. The teams received feedback at the end of each practice round designed to hone their advocacy, critical thinking, and legal reasoning skills.

### Weekly Update of Legal Assistance to Vulnerable Groups Provided by Access to Justice Law School Partners (Cumulative)

#	Grantee	Focus of Legal Assistance	# of Legal Cases	# of Students Participating (Current or Completed) in the Legal Clinic	# of Courses Relevant to Legal Clinical Education	# of Students in Legal Clinical Education Courses
1	Salahaddin Law School (Erbil)	Various	9	80	3	41
2	Baghdad Law School	Various	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet
3	Basrah Law School	Various	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet	Not Started Yet

Note: **Entries in parentheses indicate new additions this week.** Numbers in the above table have not yet been verified against M&E data collection forms, but are a close approximation for the purposes of communicating accomplishments of grantees within a reasonable margin of error. Data verified by M&E data form documentation will be presented in quarterly reports.

## COMPONENT 3 – ADVOCACY AND IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### Result 3.1: Support Partners in Reviewing Processes and Procedures for Reform of Policies, Regulations, and Legislation as they Relate to Vulnerable Populations.

#### *Having an Effect on Vulnerable People*

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Parliament called for a specific yearly budgetary allocation benefitting people with disabilities and special needs. Parliament also urged the Ministry of Construction and Housing to provide adequate housing for the disabled and special needs community and the Ministry agreed and began to explore financing options. These measures are included in the recommendations from A2J's Roundtable on Disabilities Issues and indicate the positive outcomes from the roundtable.

The Draft Law on People with Disabilities was amended by Parliament to include an independent committee on disabilities, something that has long been advocated for by the disabilities community, which has been steadily resisted by the government. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs called for creation of the independent body, which is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to which Iraq acceded on January 30<sup>th</sup>. In order to advocate for the independent committee, A2J met with MoLSA who is opposing the change and continues to favor the proposed committee as a unit within MoLSA.





In preparing for the third Roundtable on Identity Issues, Component 3 met with officials from the MoHR and the Higher Judicial Council, both of which agreed to participate.

The March roundtable on Kurdish Region IDP appeal procedures for denial of residency in the region has been postponed until April 15<sup>th</sup> due to the announced March Nowruz Holiday. ERO met with KHRW about their review of Iraqi laws concerning refugees and about preparations for the roundtable.

Component 3 worked closely with IBA officials in finalizing the Draft Law on Lawyers. The next step will be a March meeting with Parliament members, the IBA, the Shura Council, and MoLSA to coordinate a strategy to pass the law through Parliament.

## **GRANTS ADMINISTRATION**



A2J held a Kick-off meeting for 7 new grantees from Erbil, Baghdad, Basrah, and Diyala on February 25-29 at the Van Royal Hotel in Erbil. The 21 participants included 8 females. The A2J Training Specialist trained the participants on financial management, procurement, reporting and personnel policies using A2J training materials. Other A2J local staff members presented/trained on monitoring and evaluation and A2J technical activities.

The BRO met with 6 NGOs to assist them with the second phase of the grant application process and in finalizing their grant applications for submission to the A2J Grant Evaluation Committee. The 6 NGOs were: Hadia Society for Human Rights; Hiyad Organization; Amal Humanitarian Association; Al-Meameen Humanitarian Association; Al-Rawabi Humanitarian Association; and Al-Arqam Charitable Association.

## Calendar of Activities

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>February 25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Grants Kick-Off meeting, Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil</li> <li>Jessup Moot Court Practice Rounds in Baghdad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil</li> <li>Jessup Moot Court Practice Rounds in Baghdad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Grantee Training on Financial Management, Procurement, Reporting and Personnel Policies, Erbil</li> </ul>		
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil</li> <li>Iraqi Bar Assoc./Kurdish Bar Assoc. joint conf. in Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-Day Training on Market Research Plans in cooperation with IREX in Erbil</li> </ul>			
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Roundtable on Identity in Baghdad</li> <li>Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil</li> </ul>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal Clinic Operations TOT in Erbil</li> </ul>						
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil</li> <li><b>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil</li> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on Strategic Comm. for new IKR A2J Grantees in Erbil</li> <li>IBA Moot Court Highlighting Disabilities Issues in Baghdad</li> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>
<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessup Moot Court Int'l Rounds in Washington, DC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

USAID Recommended to attend events circled in **RED**